



1951

A study of junior sportsman clubs throughout the United States with special reference to the Lodi Junior Sportsmen

Joseph Allen Wilson
University of the Pacific

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/uop_etds



Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Research Commons](#), [Policy Design, Analysis, and Evaluation Commons](#), [Policy History, Theory, and Methods Commons](#), [Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Commons](#), and the [Sports Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Wilson, Joseph Allen. (1951). *A study of junior sportsman clubs throughout the United States with special reference to the Lodi Junior Sportsmen*. University of the Pacific, Thesis.
https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/uop_etds/1147

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate School at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of the Pacific Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

A STUDY OF JUNIOR SPORTSMAN
CLUBS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LODI JUNIOR SPORTSMEN

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Department of Religious Education
College of the Pacific

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Joseph Allen Wilson
June 1951

To

My friend and co-worker,

"Fishing Jim Loveall".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| CHAPTER | PAGE |
|--|------|
| I. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Justification for study | 3 |
| Methods and procedure | 3 |
| II. THE LODI JUNIOR SPORTSMEN'S CLUB | 4 |
| Organizational background | 4 |
| Aims and objectives of the club | 5 |
| Requirements for membership | 6 |
| Methods of revenue | 6 |
| Club structure | 6 |
| Meetings | 7 |
| Club activities | 7 |
| First aid | 8 |
| Swimming and swimming instruction | 8 |
| California Indian study | 8 |
| Nature study | 9 |
| Woodcraft and camping activities | 11 |
| Fishing activities | 12 |
| Frog hunting | 13 |
| Safety instruction | 13 |
| Trapping and taxidermic activities | 14 |
| Annual events | 15 |

| | |
|--|------|
| | 111 |
| CHAPTER | PAGE |
| III. RESULTS OF SURVEY | 18 |
| Contact sources | 18 |
| Communities reporting no Junior | |
| Sportsmen Organization | 19 |
| Communities reporting fishing for | |
| youngsters | 20 |
| Communities reporting nature study | |
| for youngsters | 25 |
| Communities offering Indian Lore | 27 |
| Communities offering First Aid instruction | 27 |
| Communities offering swimming instruction. | 28 |
| Communities reporting camping for | |
| youngsters | 28 |
| Effect of climate and locale | 30 |
| Items not reported by any community . . | 31 |
| IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 32 |
| Summary | 32 |
| Recommendations | 33 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 37 |
| APPENDIX | 41 |

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis in recent years upon community recreation and its rapid extension throughout the United States constitute one of the encouraging signs of our times. Group work especially has made rapid strides. Its continued growth during the past fifteen years,¹ and the fact that communities large and small have been willing to allocate increasingly greater sums of money for its support, are indications, not only that these programs are paying dividends, but that a healthy social philosophy is taking root.

This development has been surprising in the light of the following facts: There has been almost no precedent in previous experience. Leaders have had to develop not only a philosophy, but a method as well. No college or university, up until recent years, has offered courses in community recreation or group work.² What has been done so far has for the most part been slowly developed by a few public-minded men and women who have cautiously

¹ Charles E. Hendry, Editor, A Decade of Group Work (New York, The Association Press, 1948) p. 133

² Survey returns show few colleges or universities offered this curriculum prior to 1944.

felt their way.

No one can deny that a definite need exists for outdoors experiences for growing boys -- an escape from the warped, pavement-minded attitudes of our cities. The challenge of nature offers each individual an opportunity not only to enrich his life by beauty, but to achieve a better sense of balance in his whole mental and spiritual outlook. Chief Justice William O. Douglas, who, as boy and man, hiked the trails of the Cascades for thirty years in his home state of Washington, states the case in the preface of his recent book:

"I early learned that the richness of life is found in adventure. Adventure calls for all the faculties of mind and spirit. It develops self-reliance and independence. Life teems with excitement. But man is not ready for adventure unless he is rid of fear. For fear confines him and limits his scope. He stays tethered by strings of doubt and indecision and has only a small and narrow world to explore.

This book may help others to use the mountains to prepare for adventure.

They -- if they are among the uninitiated -- may be inspired to search out the high alpine basins and fragile flowers that flourish there. They may come to know the exhilaration of wind blowing through them on rocky pinnacles. They may recognize the music of the conifers when it comes both in whispered melodies and in the fullness of wind instruments. They may discover the glory of a blade of grass and find their own relationship to the universe in the song of the willow thrush at dusk. They may learn to worship God where pointed spires of balsam fir turn a mountain meadow into a cathedral."³

³ William O. Douglas, Of Men and Mountains (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1950) Preface*

This study will trace the history and development of a new idea in recreation, that of the Junior Sportsmen's Club. This program was first worked out by the writer at Lodi, California, while he was employed by the Lodi Recreation Department, and has in a few short years spread throughout the United States. The writer feels that inasmuch as the project has been an actual field experiment, his study should be of value to other communities or to other leaders in recreation. This provides the reason as well as the justification for his study.

Methods and procedures. This paper makes use of a combination of two methods:

- A. The factual reporting of the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club experiment, concerning which the writer is both the experimenter and the observer.
- B. The questionnaire method, which attempts to discover to what extent Junior Sportsmen's Clubs have been established throughout the United States.

The data collected will be presented in the following chapters as a history of the Junior Sportsmen's Club idea, with special emphasis on the Lodi project, and of the development of these clubs in other areas.

CHAPTER II

THE LODI JUNIOR SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Organizational background. Almost every report illustrates that while our human population in this country is increasing much of our wildlife is decreasing:

"It seems as if all the killable game of North America, except rabbits, is being crushed to death between the upper millstone of industries and trade, and the conglomerate lower millstone made up by killers of wild life. We are certain that not one per cent of the people of the United States realize this, and that not one-tenth of one per cent is doing anything to reform and stabilize this deadly condition."⁴

Along with the decrease of wildlife there also has been a reduction in the hunting and fishing areas open to the average sportsman. To round out a recreation program and to instill in our youngsters an appreciation for our game and a respect for personal property, the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club was formed. Within four years after formation, in October, 1947, the club has grown from the original twenty-two members to an organization of over four hundred.

The first meeting was in a small room in the Congregational Church. As the membership increased the meetings were moved to an elementary school little theatre,

⁴ Hornaday, William T.; Thirty Years' War For Wild Life; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, London, 1931; p. 9

and finally to a larger auditorium at the Needham Grammar School.

Aims and objectives of the club. The general aims of the club were determined to be to instill in the members good sportsmanship, to help prevent juvenile delinquency, and to teach the boys general safety measures intended to reduce the number of hunting and fishing accidents.

More directly, the club aimed to provide activity for boys not eligible for competitive sports -- this includes boys who are physically handicapped.

Another aim was to mold boys correctly during the age in which they need additional physical outlets. Between the ages of ten and fifteen years, boys are most likely to get into trouble. Having outgrown childhood games, their active minds are constantly open to the stimulus of new ideas. They also require at this time more of a physical outlet than they do at an older age:

"Ten to fifteen is called the "gang age". And rightly so! For the gang is not a superficial phenomenon, like having the measles or learning decimals. It is a psychological attitude which affects the boy's personality. It is a period of profound change which finds the boy an individual and leaves him a member of a social whole.⁵

The close relation between the director and the boys

⁵ Furfey, Paul Hanly; The Gang Age; The Macmillan Company, 1928; p. 132

makes this latter aim more possible of realization. Closely associated with these aims was the attempt to bring about a closer and friendlier relationship between boys of varying social and racial status.

Requirements for membership. The membership requirements were very simple. The club was opened to all boys between the ages of ten and fifteen years. It was considered necessary to exclude older boys interested in joining the club as the variation in their ages diversifies interest and abilities.

Methods of Revenue. From the beginning the Lodi Union Sportsmen's Club has required no membership fees or dues, inasmuch as very little expense is incurred by the club's activities. The club is sponsored by the Lodi Recreation Department, and therefore has access to the city and school facilities. The club treasury has been maintained through special fund-raising activities, such as a paper drive and scrap collections. This method of financing through socially approved goals develops projects which further unite the group. The money has been used for necessary equipment; such as, two toboggans, traps and fishing equipment to be loaned to members.

Club Structure. The club is divided into sections of from ten to fifteen boys. Each section membership is determined mainly by the areas in which the boys live.

Allowances are made for close friends to be in the same section, younger boys being placed in sections where they receive the guidance of older boys. The sections are named by the members after animals, such as Foxes, Skunks, Rattlesnakes, and Buffalo. At the present time there are twenty-one sections within the club averaging from fifteen to twenty-five boys per section.

Meetings. General meetings are held twice monthly, on alternate Thursday nights, featuring either a guest speaker or hunting and fishing movies. The latter are obtained through publicity departments of various states and Canada. At these meetings current club activities are discussed and plans made for future events. Special meetings are called whenever unusual events occasion them. An important and interesting report at each meeting concerns the activities of the Senior Sportsmen's Club, an organization of adult sportsmen in Lodi.

Club Activities. During the summer months each section goes on a field trip one day per week. On Saturdays, the year round, the entire group is permitted to take to the fields.

After-school hours include activities which can be carried out within a short distance of Lodi. The club's popular fishing activities are to a large degree controlled by the natural migratory factors. When the striped bass

are in full run in the spring and in the fall, for instance, there is little thought for any other type of angling. This vicinity is fortunate in that some of the finest sports fishing in the world is at its doors, and that it is accessible and inexpensive to pursue.

First Aid. Inasmuch as one of the major objectives of the club is to qualify each member in first aid, special section meetings are held at which the boys are taught emergency precautions and general procedure in first aid. On a field trip, at least every other boy is equipped with a first aid kit.

Swimming and swimming instruction. Every member is required to learn how to swim. For those who have not mastered aquatic fundamentals, weekly swimming classes are held at the high school pool under the supervision of a Red Cross instructor. At the present time less than five per cent of the boys are unable to meet the swimming requirements. This minority group is made up of relatively new members. For the advanced swimmers life saving techniques are taught. Other water safety activities include boating and canoeing lessons given at the Lodi Lake Park.

California Indian Study. Another major activity of the club is the study of Indian lore. General information is obtained from movies shown, from visits to museums, and

literature available.⁶ Frequent trips are made to the local Indian burial grounds. It is not generally known that San Joaquin Valley is extremely rich in traces of Indian culture. These boys have learned what your land and mine was like many years ago. They know of the tribes which fell in pandemics of diseases brought upon them by the white man -- pandemics which brought virtual extinction to these early native Californians. They have seen the heaped bones in the mass burial places, and they have looked into the past. Within a radius of ten miles of Lodi the group has located and explored no fewer than nine Indian burial grounds.⁷ Many of the boys have excellent collections of Indian arrowheads, spearheads, beads and utensils.

Nature Study. Nature study forms an invaluable part of the club's activities. On visits to museums and zoos,⁸ the boys see and study historical relics and learn of the animals which were native to this area.⁹ As a result

⁶ Schenck, W. Egbert; Archaeology of the Northern San Joaquin Valley; University of California, Berkeley, California, 1929.

⁷ See Map

⁸ William Land Park Zoo, Sacramento, California; Sacramento Indian Museum, Sacramento, California; Haggin Art Gallery, Stockton, California.

⁹ Peterson, Roger Tory; A Field Guide to Western Birds; Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941.

of these field trips, follow-up studies are made at meetings. When an animal is sighted while the club is in the field, classification becomes an immediate objective.

Whether the animal be insect, bird, fish or mammal, classification to order is sought, as well as determination of the common name. If, for example, while on a trip to the mountains the boys should see a coyote, they would immediately know it to be a mammal and a Carnivora, an animal of predatory instincts, legal to kill.

Birds, the most common animal in this vicinity, have induced members to become skilled in identification. Many members can recognize birds at a distance entirely from their characteristic methods of flight and perching. When it is uncertain, classification proceeds more carefully by reference to the handbook and the known habitational and migratory factors.

Dr. John Arnold, Zoology professor at College of the Pacific, lists 215 birds which take up residence in San Joaquin County at sometime during the year. The club uses this survey material as a guide in determining how many of these birds they may observe in the course of the year.

Closely coordinated with this phase of scientific study is the work with the local schools. Specimens which ordinarily would never reach the school science departments are brought in already identified and classified by these young experts, thus stimulating scientific interests beyond

the confines of the club.

Many of the boys have fine collections of bird wings, nests and excellent insect collections, all properly mounted and preserved.

Woodcraft and camping activities. Woodmanship or pioneering is closely connected with the nature study phase. Boys learn how to figure directions to avoid getting lost and to determine the time of day.

Prior to going camping, every boy must possess basic skills which include making and breaking camp, the ability to roll a pack, do's and don'ts in fire building, how to cook their own meals, techniques in making shelters and bough beds, and the know-how of a thoroughly planned expedition; furthermore their plans must cover both the individual and the group. Special meetings are called for the purpose of "briefing" those about to engage in camping.

When a camping trip necessitates long hikes, a drastic change of altitude, or any unusual vigorous experience, a preliminary health examination is the policy and must be taken by every candidate.

The boys also study the lore of the woods, learning to recognize the various animal tracks and other signs of animal life.

They learn to identify plant and tree life, and to know at what altitude they may be expected to be found. They learn early to recognize Poison Oak. This knowledge

has saved many a blistered skin. They are taught to recognize the danger of fire in the woods, and they have seen the devastation resultant upon carelessness -- the eroded hillsides, the blackened canyons. They have seen also the way in which nature heals her deforested areas with moisture-hording plants, and they learn to comprehend something of growth, decay and rebirth.

Fishing Activities. Fishing is one of the most popular and important activities of the club program. Prior to organized fishing trips, the boys make a study by charts and pamphlets of the fish to be found in the area.¹⁰ Instructions are given on the correct techniques in care and usage of equipment as well as methods to be followed in catching the various species of fish. The proper care, cleaning and preservation of food fish is also learned. Throughout the summer months there are numerous expeditions to the various fishing areas adjacent to Lodi. These include overnight camping trips to trout streams. Black and Striped Bass, perch, crappies, sunfish, catfish and trout are proudly brought home properly cleaned and dressed. Mothers and "dads" appreciate this latter accomplishment. In the future, it is hoped to be able to arrange some deep

¹⁰ Curtis, Brian; The Warm-Water Game Fishes of California; Reprint from California Fish and Game, July, 1949

sea fishing trips in the San Francisco bay area to round out the boys' fishing experiences, as well as to afford further opportunities for nature study.

Frog Hunting. Summer nights are spent in frog hunting. The long legged hoppers are hypnotized when confronted with beam from a flashlight.¹¹ During the day they are caught with a piece of red flannel dangling from a triple hook. Preparations, cooking and the social and gastronomical satisfaction of a frog leg dinner are experiences never to be forgotten by these youngsters.

Safety Instruction. Of prime importance preliminary to engaging in the club's hunting activities is instruction in the general safety precautions and handling of guns. Various films have been shown, demonstrating the care of guns and the proper methods of hunting. Members are instructed in safety methods for accident prevention in connection with the lives of fellow hunters as well as their own lives. According to California vital statistics, 80 people were killed or injured in gun and hunting accidents last year.¹² Instructions are given so that the youthful hunter will recognize types and sizes of animals to the purpose that law protected animals may be safeguarded.

¹¹ California Fish and Game Code; 1949-1951, p. 196

¹² Validated by Kramer Adams; Fish and Game Commission, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California.

Along with the above mentioned items, boys are continually being advised of the necessity of respecting the farmer's crops, fences and herds. Organized hunting trips are held in which not more than two members are supervised by one instructor. In this way, the instructor is able to keep his undivided attention on the young hunters.

Trapping and taxidermic activities. Trapping is another of the major activities of the club. Along with the trapping techniques, detailed study of the wild life available in the area are considered. The skinning, preserving, and tanning of animal pelts are included. Trap lines are set out in the foothills and are checked twice a week. This activity is participated in by most members. Those who are unable to buy their own traps may borrow them from the club's supply. As a rule, two boys work together as partners on each set. Probably one of the greatest thrills offered by any of the activities is the anticipation of finding an animal in their trap setting. The boys are almost as excited over catching a rat as a fox. Arrangements have been made with a local taxidermist to have two boys work with him, thus gaining first hand and valuable information in the care of their trophies.

Each pair of boys works with him for a six month period so that many will have a chance to receive this training.¹³

Annual Events. Certain singular activities of the club have created so much interest amongst the members that they have been established as permanent events in the yearly program. What has proved the most popular, perhaps, has been the annual plug casting tournament held each summer at the Lodi Lake Park. With over two hundred boys wing for prizes, the competition is so keen that only weeks and months of practice separate the newcomers from the proficient. Adult experts in plug casting act as judges, and long before the day is finished they realize the art is not theirs alone. The contest involves dropping standard-weight lures through painted hoops set at varying distances on the waters of the lake. Standard plug casting equipment is furnished the contestants by the club, although most boys prefer to use their own. Scoring for this activity is on a point basis, depending upon the distance of the target and the number of trials made. Valuable prizes of fishing and camping equipment, donated by local merchants, tend to increase the excitement of this event.

¹³ Taxidermist John Dawson; 530 Cross Street, Lodi, California.

During Easter vacation one day is set aside for mud and fun for all. It is on this day that the boys gather their baseball bats and clubs to eliminate carp in the puddles and potholes adjacent to the Lodi Lake Park. The carp, long recognized as detrimental to game fishes, is depleted by amphibious youngsters who stir up a pond until the fish poke their noses up for oxygen. At this point the bats come into play and the scavengers are tossed on the bank.

In the four years since the formation of the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club, it has received the wholehearted support of the community. Parents in particular are enthusiastic over the opportunity for their boys to gain this knowledge and experience, since few parents have the time to spend with their youngsters in such activities. Moreover, many parents have never had the opportunity to receive such experience in their own youth.

Here is democracy in action. Many nationalities are represented, including Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican and Filipino. Boys of widely differing social, racial, and economic status develop a close sense of companionship through their common experiences. The active young boys, who might be spending their spare time looking for mischief, are kept so busy and interested in the activities of the club that they have no time to become

engaged in other than wholesome and supervised activities. Above all, the spirit of good sportsmanship, realization of the importance of game conservation and respect for property are instilled in them in every phase of the club's work.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS OF SURVEY

The letter of inquiry attempting to discover to what extent Junior Sportsmen's organizations have been established throughout the United States was sent to 154 cities in forty-two states. In this way no representative geographical area was neglected or ignored, and the study assumed from the start a significant scope.

In determining which particular cities should be contacted, two sources of information were extremely helpful:

(1) The office of the National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York, which furnishes lists of cities having functional recreational programs, and

(2) Better Fishing, Inc., a non-profit national organization with offices at 509 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, dedicated to furnishing fishing fun for all youngsters under license age. This organization has since 1947 sponsored the now celebrated Annual National Better Fishing Rodeo, in which more than two million youngsters participated last year across the nation.

The number of responses from these letters was very gratifying. From the 154 inquiries there were 103

replies from 31 states, percentages of 66% and 73% respectively. Among the 31 states responding, all representative geographical areas of the United States are included -- New England and the Atlantic Coast, the South, the Mid-West, and Pacific Coast and the North West.

The data received were varied and extremely interesting from the standpoint of the survey. It ranged from communities who had no Junior Sportsmen's program at all to cities with elaborate organizations functioning, and in full swing. Most of the responses indicated that their communities attempted one or more of the particular phases of the Lodi experiment. Practically all of them expressed interest in the Junior Sportsmen idea and stated plans for imminent establishment of a similar program.

The following breakdown is revealing in that it demonstrates to what extent, the Junior Sportsmen program is functioning in the communities responding to the questionnaire:

Communities reporting no Junior Sportsmen Organization.

Of the 103 responses, 10 of them reported at present no program incorporating any type of the Junior Sportsmen Club. These ranged from small communities like Elkhart, Indiana, which operate public recreation on a slender budget, to large cities like Louisville, Kentucky, which boasts "what is generally considered one of the most pro-

gressive public recreation programs in the United States."¹⁴

Under the above sub-heading the following cities are included: Marion, Ohio; Fargo, North Dakota; Elkhart, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Toledo, Ohio; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Moline, Illinois; Bristol, Connecticut; Stockton, California; Topeka, Kansas.

Communities reporting fishing for youngsters. By far, the most frequent report was that which indicated a controlled fishing program for youngsters below license age. Fifty-nine cities states that they conducted organized fishing for juniors -- fishing contests, derbies, etc. Many of these replies were highly enthusiastic, and all were interesting. For instance, the Department of Recreation at Las Vegas, Nevada, explains that the set-up in that area through its Superintendent of Recreation, Bob Genochio. He reports a small man-made lake that is constantly being refilled with artesian well water and the cast-off water of an adjacent swimming pool. For the Fishing Rodeo each year the pool is stocked with trout. The circular distributed last year to the boys and girls of that city reveals not only the structure of their event, but is a fine example of good psychology in selling it:

"Last call, kids! Grab your fishing poles and head out to the Twin Lakes pool at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow if you want to enter the city's first annual fishing rodeo.

Grand prizes of complete casting outfits will

¹⁴ Correspondence of March 26, 1951.

be awarded to the champion boy and champion girl angler; in addition there'll be other prizes donated by local merchants as well as tagged fish, which will bring cash awards.

Transportation will not be furnished, but there will be extra fishing rods on hand for boys and girls who do not have their own poles."¹⁵

From Davenport, Iowa, comes a report of an annual fishing derby exceptionally well organized and enthusiastically supported. Last year's event drew 385 youthful anglers and 500 interested parents and adults. "Many of today's anglers," writes Recreation Director, Dick Trezuling, "who fish up and down the Mississippi River, which flows past our door, got their first interest in fishing aroused at these derbies, having started with entry in one of the citywide meets."

One very interesting phase of the contest in this city involves what is known as "Huck Finn Day."

"Our three small wading pools were stocked with two or three dozen carp and crappies, and the youth, upon signal, go into the pool in swimming trunks and attempt to catch these fish with their bare hands.

The one catching the largest fish was declared the winner, (all are permitted to keep the fish that they catch), and various prizes are given at each pool and a grand prize is awarded to the one who catches the largest fish.

This not only has proven very entertaining to the participants, but is a howling success with the spectators."¹⁶

¹⁵ Correspondence of March 15, 1951.

¹⁶ Ibid.

In contrast to the above, we have the example of a great American City, situated in the heart of one of the finest sports fishing areas in the world, failing to take full advantage of the golden opportunity at its very doors. New Orleans spends the astounding sum of \$390,000 a year upon public recreation; yet it has no Junior Sportsmen's program as such, and its fishing program has been meagre and inadequate -- at least to judge from its report:

"The New Orleans Recreation Department has lately included fishing in its crowded program. Short instruction sessions in the elementary principles of fishing by a volunteer staff are part of the program."¹⁷

Evidently some development is underway here.

From the Pacific Northwest, the State of Oregon sends a unique report from no less a personage than its Secretary of State, Earl T. Newbry. The following act relating to fishing areas for juveniles is the only example encountered in the survey of such action taken by the official law making body of a state:

"To prohibit any person over the age of seventeen years from fishing the waters of Mill Creek in Marion County, and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Oregon;

Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of eighteen years to fish in the waters of mill Creek, located in Marion County, Oregon; providing that no right

¹⁷ Handbook, New Orleans Recreation Department, 1951.

arising out of the ownership of real property shall be affected by this act.

Section 2. Any person violating any provision of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100), or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Approved by the governor April 4, 1949.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State April 4, 1949."18

The above fishing programs are presented in specific detail only to provide some concrete evidence of what is being done in certain representative areas. Considering the number of communities offering fishing as a whole, however, we find a great deal of variation within the group. We find, for instance, differences in methods, approach, and organization which shows at times both originality and the need for development.

Of the 59 communities reporting recreational fishing, practically all indicated some sort of "fishing contest" or "derby." This in itself, especially in areas fortunate to have access to nearby natural facilities, a highly desirable part of a well-organized fishing program; but it should not in these cases constitute the whole substance as well. It is, of course, probably as much as can be done where fishing facilities must be provided artificially in man-made lakes and ponds within the city proper.

18 Correspondence of March 14, 1951.

These communities are to be congratulated upon their achievement. But there is no substitute for actually taking to the streams and lakes under competent leadership and wise counsel, where a day of real angling becomes not a contest but a truly enriching experience.

Communities providing man-made fishing areas, artificially stocked for youngsters, include the following: Baltimore, Maryland; Las Vegas, Nevada; Charleston, South Carolina; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Peoria, Illinois; York, Pennsylvania; Davenport, Iowa; Portsmouth, Ohio; Allentown, Pennsylvania; and Schenectady, New York.

Many sections of the country, however, are fortunate in having immediate access to natural fishing areas second to none. Communities like Bismark, North Dakota; Tiffin, Ohio; Sparks, Nevada; Flint, Michigan; Salem, Oregon; and Everett, Washington have no need to go far afield for this type of recreation nor to spend large sums of money in developing the means for it.

One salient point of difference involves the sponsorships of the clubs under consideration. This appears to be in direct ratio to the degree of development, the more highly organized groups throughout the country falling under direct control of community recreation departments, and the less functional under private or parent-club leaderships. Harry S. Grabner, Assistant Director of Recreation, writes from the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana:

"The Fort Wayne City Recreation Department does not conduct a junior fishing program since the Patterson Fletcher Company in conjunction with one of the local newspapers each year conducts a small affair of this kind. We feel that anything we would do in this type of activity would be a duplication of the program."¹⁹

Belleville, Illinois, holds a fishing contest for boys and girls under the sponsorship of the local Chapter of the American Legion. At San Diego, California, the Kiwanis Club is in charge. A fishing tackle company in Jacksonville, Florida, sponsors the contest there. Other communities functioning in this manner are Colorado Springs, Colorado; Amarillo, Texas; Gadson, Alabama; and Wells, Nevada. In each of these instances the program consists of the one annual event alone, and there is no claim or attempt at any work on the "club" level.

In general, cities boasting highly organized recreational facilities conduct fishing contests under recreational leadership. Ithaca, New York, has, for example, made their "Fishing Derby" a three day event featuring many aspects of angling skill, casting, fly-tying, and boating.

Communities Offering Native Study. Some phase of nature study under recreational supervision is attempted in only two of the cities contacted in the survey. Neither of the reports, however, indicated more than a casual attempt at this kind of instruction for youngsters, and there was no evidence that recreational leaders as a whole

¹⁹ Correspondence of March 13, 1951.

realize the opportunities for thus enriching the lives of American boys and girls. Belleville, Illinois, in their annual catalogue of summer events announces an eight week course including nature study open to all boys and girls on a volunteer basis.

"For a period of eight weeks a group composed of 40-60 youngsters are transported once a week to an area near the City of Belleville. This area is owned by the local American Legion Chapter and we are permitted to use the area free of charge.

Any child who wishes may bring his fishing equipment along and go fishing. The others participate in nature study, cooking and other activities."²⁰

No community contacted attempts such diverse instruction as insect study or even the most elementary treatment of the biological and zoological sciences as such. Apparently the force of inertia is operating here to the detriment of a truly functional program. This appears more evident when one stops to consider that well over 70% of all life on earth is Inseta.²¹

Bird and animal study through the method of making wildlife drives are nowhere reported.

Inasmuch as bird and animal life abound in even the most civilized areas of the United States, it is

²⁰ Leilich, Roy E., Superintendent of Recreation; Belleville, Illinois; Correspondence of March 15, 1951.

²¹ Hegner, Robert W., College Zoology; the MacMillan Company; 1942, p. 2.

unfortunate that our present generation is not at every opportunity taught the appreciation of the life they see about them.

Communities offering Indian Lore. Aside from the parent club at Lodi, California, no city has yet attempted a concrete study for youngsters of previous human life upon this continent. This situation is hardly excused through lack of material. Every area of continental America provides abundant study in its soil or terrain. It is the writer's belief that history has too long neglected the American Indian.

Communities offering First Aid. It was rather surprising to find so few recreational programs offering basic instruction in first aid to their groups. While most demand first aid knowledge of their instructors, only two, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, give any direct instruction in this important field to the boys and girls under their command. A few cities like Provo, Utah, and Stoughton, Wisconsin, take the position that such matter is more properly the business of the schools or of the Boy Scouts:

"The idea appears to me to be a good one, especially in an area where the Boy Scout movement has not yet taken a good hold. It appears that some of the activities relate very closely to those of our Boy Scout groups in this city. Unless the plan could be tied in very closely

to the Boy Scout groups here, I'm afraid it would be in for tough sledding in this particular area. Many of the phases of your program -- first aid, nature study, etc. -- appear to overlap with those of the Boy Scout program."²²

The writer believes that the above letter illustrates all too clearly the frequent tendency to pass responsibility that is often rejected as irksome by the communities themselves.

Communities offering Swimming Instruction. Swimming has proved to be the one activity of which there has been no lack in the communities under study. Ninety-one letters reported recreational swimming and swimming instruction as part of the summer program. The New Orleans, Louisiana, recreation program, for example, catered to 234,545 people during the summer of 1949.

Lodi, California is the only community, to judge from the reports, which conducts a swimming program the year round. This appears surprising, but it is in direct accord with the facts of the survey.

Communities reporting Camping for Youngsters. Camping for youngsters is conducted in about 25% of the cities reporting. As an activity, however, it occurs in many communities under various sponsorships and under several plans or organization. One very interesting report

²² Rockwood, Lynn R., Superintendent of Recreation, Provo, Utah; Correspondence of March 21, 1951.

illustrates a unique tie-up with the public schools of the area. The letter of Robert L. Black, Community Recreation Assistant at Jefferson City, Missouri, is informative enough to be quoted almost in its entirety:

"I have read over very carefully your program for Junior Sportsmen Clubs and find it both interesting and stimulating. The tie-up with a recreation department is interesting and I will surely pass this information along to the organized programs of the state.

Mr. A. A. Wyman, Director of Camps and Recreation, has a program along this line that he works out quite successfully with the schools. Certain elementary schools are taken out to one of our state park camps for one week of outing during the school year. This is made a part of the regular school curriculum. On these outings the children are taught many of the things you stress in your program."²³

Jacksonville, Florida offers a two weeks' camp for boys and girls under direct control of the city recreation department, as does New Brunswick, New Jersey. Twenty-seven cities in all stated that they conducted summer camps for their citizens, adult and children alike, subject to a set fee for participation. Four cities -- New Haven, Connecticut; Marion, Ohio; Pottstown, Pennsylvania; and Quincy, Massachusetts, stated that in their opinion camping for children was adequately provided for by the camping programs of local service clubs which conduct camps for certain under privileged youngsters in their own and many other areas of the

²³ Correspondence of February 28, 1951.

United States.

In light of the above it is evident that a definite trend is in process for community recreation summer camps throughout the United States.

Effect of Climate and Locale. While many cities and communities appear to take advantage of their geographical location to conduct adequate recreation programs, it is evident that many do not take full advantage of what they have. One pertinent example is that of Bemiji, Minnesota, concerning which Supervisor of Recreation, Horace May writes:

"I really wish we could get your program started here. Our Sportsmen Club died in Bemiji years ago. Right now it needs rejuvenation, and they have spoken of reviving same. We have a wonderful vacation land in northern Minnesota, with plenty of fishing, hunting, and so on. Just look at our envelope!"²⁴

On the other hand, we have the instance of communities like Las Vegas, Nevada, who have through imagination and hard work created substantially their own environment for much of their out-of-doors recreation program. This has been described earlier in this chapter. The evidence seems to be that geographical location or climate need not hinder development if those in charge

²⁴ Correspondence of March 18, 1951.

are possessed of imagination and the vigor to translate vision into reality.

Items not reported by any community. Two activities not reported to be in progress in any community other than the original Junior Sportsmen Club at Lodi, California, are trapping and taxidermy. Even those areas in which furbearing animals mammals are abundant report no activity along this line insofar as it relates to youth. One possible explanation could be that fur trapping in many places is a highly commercialized industry, thereby preventing any such program as recreation or as a phase of nature study.

CHAPTER IV

Summary and Recommendations

The survey has revealed beyond doubt that a new field is opening in community recreation---the clear tendency toward reintroducing American Boys and girls to the out-of-doors on a year round basis. Camping has been an organized movement for nearly a century, and has emphasized parts of this program. Here, however we approach the study on a twelve months basis. In many instances the attempt is uncertain and halting, but the trend is evident, and the fact is encouraging. What is the reason for this new direction? It is entirely possible, though it is too early yet to state with certainty, that a process of evolution is at work at the very heart of education in America. For many years the 3 R's of the "classic School" provided the core of curriculum, the reference point about which most instruction in our schools was organized. This was, it appears to the writer, only partially successful. Many of the concepts were philosophically abstract, and direct usefulness to developing youngsters lacking. Then the natural sciences --- the immediate impact of the world of fact---supplanted the classics. The present trend seems toward an emphasis on the social setting and most learning situations placed in living

environment. Our Junior Sportsmen's program seems to carry out both of these latter approaches.

In the light of the various situations revealed by the survey, the writer now enters upon the final phase of his study, and respectfully submits the following recommendations:

1. Recreational sponsorship of Junior Sportsmen's Clubs:

While several communities reported that they expressed doubt that many phases of the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club did not belong under community recreation, this writer maintains that any type of healthful recreation meeting the needs and interests of the people should be conducted under trained leadership and has a place in public recreation programs.

2. The consideration of relative values: Some responses indicated a reluctance to engage in Junior Sportsmen's activities owing to the dangers to the youngsters in taking them afield, and the subsequent reflection upon the recreation department. This attitude, to the writer, reveals an inability to weigh relative values.

3. The sharing of ideas: The survey indicated that numerous communities conduct a recreation program that has involved no original developments and a complete unwillingness to pioneer new fields. The failure to gain adequate knowledge of revolutionary tactics and programs in other communities is not only detrimental but disastrous.

Recreation leaders should be in continual contact with others in the field, sharing and evaluating new developments.

4. Reconsideration of aims in recreation: Whereas some recreation leaders place their main emphasis upon the combating of juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation, and mere prevention, the writer feels that guidance and character building are the true duties of every recreational leader, and that his is not the role of a policeman. Nature provides an interesting and challenging illustration of the laws of cause and effect, which the club members learn early to read. We provide an active positive approach to the life problems.

5. Correlation of schools and recreation activities:

In none of the reports was there any evidence of correlation between any phase of organized recreation and similar work being conducted in the classroom. Recreation is education. The Lodi club alone of the programs studied works its nature study program hand in hand with the elementary school life science department, providing incentives, acceleration of learning, and frequently a new interest in school as such.

6. Organization of clubs: Most public recreation programs offer little in "club" organization, the stress being on "free" or unorganized play or on mass activities. In communities where groupwork has not taken hold, it should

be the recreation department's duty to provide clubs as a method of meeting what the writer believes to be one of mankind's greatest needs---a sense "of belonging", of "being in". In the give and take of club planned and executed program, the members early learn how to exercise vital citizenship in a democracy. Many service projects are logical outgrowths of the club technique.

7. Development of activities with carry-over value:

Whereas the majority of activities conducted by the typical program places its main emphasis upon sports and games, it would appear more truly functional to stress program and fields of activity and study in which the individual could participate after his athletic days are over. Baseball, basketball, football, etc., while important to youngsters, have little actual carry over value as activities past adolescence. Yet these activities constitute the major substance of many community recreation programs. Furthermore a program such as outlined in the Lodi set-up, attracts youngsters who in many instances cannot indulge in athletics.

8. Tie in for Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., etc., Boys only:

No one program can or should attempt to meet all of the needs of every individual. However, the program of the Junior Sportsmen can and does make great contributions in helping the growing boy become familiar with the world in which he must live and to teach him to live more effectively with his fellows.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Curtis, Brian The Warm-Water Game Fishes of California. Reprint from California Fish and July, 1949. 18 pp.
- Furkey, Paul Hanly, The Gang Age, New York. The Macmillan Company, 1928. 189 pp.
- Hornaday, William T., Thirty Years War for Wild Life, Charles Scribner's Sons: New York--London - 1931. 292 pp.
- Schenck, Egbert W., and Elmer J. Dawson, Archaeology of The Northern San Joaquin Valley. University of California of Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1929. 211 pp.
- Hjelte, George, The Administration of Public Recreation, New York; The Macmillan Company, 1948. 416 pp.
- Stanford, E. E., Man and the Living World. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1940. 916 pp.
- Peterson, Roger Tray, A Field Guide to Western Birds. Boston; Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941. 240 pp.
- Strang, Ruth, A Study of Young Children. New York, Abingdon, Cokesbury Press, 1944. 159 pp.
- Mitchell, Elmer D., and Mason, Bernard S., The Theory of Play. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1934. 542 pp.
- Morrison, Marie, Here's How In Sports. Garden City, New York; Doubleday and Company, Inc. 1948. 128 pp.
- Mulac, Margaret E., The Playleaders' Manual. New York. Harper and Brothers, 1941. 267 pp.
- Trecker, Harleigh B., Social Group Work. New York. The Woman's Press, 1948. 313 pp.

New York City Board of Education, Extending Education Through Camping. New York. Life Camps, Inc., 1948. 129 pp.

The Standard Book of Fishing (An Abridgment of The Fisherman's Encyclopedia). Bruce R. Tuttle, Editor, The Greystone Press, New York, New York. 1950. 532 pp.

Gabrielson, Ira M. Wildlife Conservation The Macmillan Company, New York, N. Y., 1941. 250 pp.

Weaver, Robert W. and Anthony F. Merrill, Camping Can Be Fun, Harper and Brothers, New York, New York and London, 1948. 241 pp.

Jaeger, Ellsworth, Wildwood Wisdom. The Macmillan Company, New York, New York, 1945. 491 pp.

Recreation, Joseph Prendergast, Editor National Recreation Association (publishers)

The Journal of Health and Physical Education, Many Wibel Editor, American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (Publishers).

Douglas, William Orville, Of Men and Mountains, New York, New York Harper and Brothers. 338 pp.

Fish and Game Code, State of California Division of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Game, 1947. pp. 320, 1949, Sacramento, California.

Camping Magazine, Howard T. Galloway, Editor. American Camping Association, Inc. Publishers Plainfield, New Jersey.

Rubim, Robert, The Book of Camping Association Press, New York, New York, 1949. 152 pp.

Ingles, Lloyd Glenn, Mammals of California, Stanford University Press, Stanford University, 1947. 258 pp.

Jepson, Willis Linn, Manual of The Flowering Plants of California, Sather Gate Book Shop-Berkeley, California. 1238 pp.

Schrenkeisen, Ray, Field Book of Freshwater Fishes
of North America, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New
York, New York, 1938. 312 pp.

Jepson, Willis Linn, The Trees of California,
Associated Students Store University of
California, at Berkeley, California. 240 pp.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

The following material consists of those items pertinent to the subject which have found no place in the main body of the work.

- A. Both the first letter of inquiry and the follow-up letter, which was sent to those failing in immediate response, are produced as follows:

Lodi Recreation Department

Lodi, California.

January 17, 1951

Dear Sir:

The inclosed mimeographed matter will explain and describe a project conducted under the auspices of the Lodi Recreation Department of which this city is very proud. For some three years the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club has served the community and its youngsters and has developed far beyond the modest beginnings in 1947.

This city through its Department of Recreation has instigated a survey of similar projects in other areas, and we would appreciate very much to hear from you regarding your own attempts along this line--that of bringing young America out of doors.

If you have any material about your own program that you would be willing to share with us, or if you are contemplating the development of a program, any phase of which is similar in scope and in aim, we would be extremely grateful to hear from you.

Any material or information should be addressed to Joseph A. Wilson, Department of Recreation, Lodi, California.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Wilson,

Director, Lodi Junior Sportsmen

Lodi Recreation Department

Lodi, California

March 1, 1951

Dear Sir:

Recently we mailed you some literature about the Lodi Junior Sportsmen's Club, explaining a survey which we are conducting.

The results of our survey of similar clubs in the United States is proving interesting, but it is far from complete.

We understand that your community has in the past engaged in a fishing program for youngsters.

Any information about this or any other phase

of your program would be extremely appreciated.

Any material or information should be addressed to: Joseph A. Wilson, Department of Recreation, Lodi, California.

Sincerely yours,

Director, Lodi Junior Sportsmen

B. List of cities contacted in survey:

The following cities from 42 States and two territories are officially entered in the Second Annual National Better Fishing Rodeo for Boys and Girls which will be held on Saturday, August 27, 1949. During the period prior to National Better Fishing Rodeo Day the cities registered will conduct organizational "Adventures in Fishing" trips for the youngsters in preparation for the national event.

JUNE 30, 1949

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Gadsden

ARKANSAS

Little Rock

Pine Bluff

CALIFORNIA

Petaluma

Redondo Beach

Riverside

San Bernardino

CALIFORNIA

San Diego

Santa Barbara

COLORADO

Colorado Springs

Fort Collins

Greeley

CONNECTICUT

Bristol

New Britain

New Haven

FLORIDA

Fort Lauderdale

Jacksonville

St. Petersburg

Vero Beach

IDaho

Boise

Twin Falls

ILLINOIS

Aurora

Belleville

ILLINOIS cont'd.

Berwyn
 Bloomington
 Chicago
 Dixon
 East St. Louis
 Joliet
 Midlothian
 Moline
 Murphysboro
 Oak Park
 Peoria
 Springfield

INDIANA

Elkhart
 Fort Wayne
 Gary
 Lafayette
 Mishawaka
 New Castle
 South Bend
 Terre Haute

IOWA

Davenport
 Fort Dodge

KANSAS

El Dorado
 Kansas City
 Leavenworth
 Salina
 Topeka

KENTUCKY

Louisville

LOUISIANA

Lafayette
 New Orleans
 Shreveport

MARYLAND

Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston
 Haverhill
 Holyoke
 Medford
 Quincy
 Westfield
 West Roxbury

MICHIGAN

Escanaba
 Flint
 Niles

MINNESOTA

Bemidji

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson
 Pascagoula

MISSOURI

Jefferson City

MONTANA

Bozeman
 Great Falls
 Sidney

NEBRASKA

Columbus

NEVADA

Las Vegas
 Sparks

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Berlin
 Claremont
 Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY

Highland Park
 New Brunswick
 Paterson
 Trenton
 Westfield

NEW MEXICO

Roswell

NEW YORK

Corning

Hornell

Ithaca

Jamestown

Johnson City

Middletown

Newburgh

Plattsburgh

Poughkeepsie

Rochester

Schenectady

Utica

NORTH CAROLINA

Winston-Salem

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck

Fargo

OHIO

Akron

Alliance

Cleveland Heights

D Dayton

East Liverpool

OHIO

Fremont

Lakewood

Mansfield

Marion

Portsmouth

Tiffin

Toledo

Youngstown

OKLAHOMA

Chickasha

McAlester

Muskogee

Sapulpa

Tulsa

OREGON

Salem

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown

Chambersburg

Chester

Pottstown

Uniontown

York

RHODE ISLAND

Cranston

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston

Columbia

Sumter

SOUTH DAKOTA

Custer

Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga

Clarkesville

Jackson

TEXAS

Amarillo

Fort Worth

Mineral Wells

UTAH

Ogden

Provo

VIRGINIA

Alexandria

Newport News

WASHINGTON

Beckley

Huntington

Wheeling

W. Va.

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire
 Green Bay
 Madison
 Milwaukee
 Oshkosh
 Rhinelander
 Stevens Point
 Stoughton
 Waukesha

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

15 Cities

ALASKA

2 Cities

Action is pending on the part of many additional municipalities who will join those listed above in conducting National Better Fishing Day programs. Each City entered will receive prize awards from BETTER FISHING, INC., for presentation to the CHAMPION BOY OR GIRL FISHERMAN.

List of Cities responding to letter of inquiry:

ALABAMA

Gadsden

CONNECTICUT

Bristol

ILLINOIS

Aurora

CALIFORNIA

San Bernardino

New Britain

Belleville

San Diego

New Haven

Berwyn

Santa Barbara

FLORIDA

Bloomington

Fort Lauderdale

Dixon

COLORADO

Colorado Springs

Jacksonville

Midlothian

Fort Collins

St. Petersburg

Murphysboro

Greeley

Vero Beach

Oak Park

Peoria

ILLINOIS cont'd.

Springfield

INDIANA

Elkhart

Fort Wayne

Gary

Lafayette

Mishawaka

New Castle

IOWA

Davenport

Fort Dodge

KANSAS

El Dorado

Salina

KENTUCKY

Louisville

LOUISIANA

Lafayette

MARYLAND

Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Haverhill

Holyoke

Medford

Quincy

Westfield

West Roxbury

MICHIGAN

Escanaba

Flint

Niles

MINNESOTA

Bemidji

MISSOURI

Jefferson City

NEVADA

Las Vegas

Sparks

NEW JERSEY

Highland Park

New Brunswick

Westfield

NEW YORK

Ithaca

Jamestown

Middletown

Newburgh

Poughkeepsie

Schenectady

Utica

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck

Fargo

OHIO

Alliance

Cleveland Heights

East Liverpool

Freemont

Lakewood

Mansfield

Marion

Portsmouth

Tiffin

OKLAHOMA

Chickasha

McAlester

Muskogee

Sapulpa

OREGON

Salem

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown

Chambersburg

Chester

Pottstown

York

SOUTH CAROLINA

Custer

Sioux Falls

SOUTH DAKOTA

Custer

Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga

Clarkesville

Jackson

TEXAS

Amarillo

Mineral Wells

UTAH

Ogden

Provo

WEST VIRGINIA

Beckley

Huntington

Wheeling

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire

Oshkosh

Rhinelander

Stevens Point

Stoughton

Waukesha

D. Tabulation of Returns

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of Cities contacted | 154 |
| Number of Cities responding | 103 |
| Number of Cities having Junior Sportsmen Clubs . . | none |
| Number of Cities indicating a nature study program.. | 2 |
| Number of Cities indicating swimming instruction . | 91 |
| Number of Cities offering First Aid to youngsters . | 2 |
| Number of Cities offering camping for youngsters . | 26 |
| Total number of Cities having one or more phases of the Lodi program | 94 |